

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A contents-information transmission system includes a contents-information handling apparatus to which one of different levels of at least one of copyright protection and information secrecy  
5 is assigned. The system also includes an authentication apparatus. The one of the different levels is transmitted from the contents-information handling apparatus to the authentication apparatus. In the authentication apparatus, a device operates for comparing the transmitted one of the different levels with a predetermined  
10 reference level. Transmission of contents information from the authentication apparatus to the contents-information handling apparatus is selectively permitted and inhibited in response to a result of the comparison.